

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 BUCCHAR 05059 310701Z

14
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
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O 310625Z AUG 76
FM AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9419

S E C R E T BUCHAREST 5059

STADIS////////////////////////////////////

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: XGDS 2 AND 3
TAGS: TSPA, ACOM, PFOR, EAIR, RO
SUBJECT: VIP TELECOMMUNICATIONS EQUIPMENT

REF: A. STATE 206860, B. STATE 178418, C. STATE 179267,
D. BUCHAREST 4051

1. SPATARU RETURNED FROM VACATION AUG 27 AND MADE HIMSELF AVAILABLE IMMEDIATELY FOR DISCUSSION OF COLLINS REPLY (REF A). HE EXPRESSED GREATEST INTEREST IN COLLINS INFORMATION ABOUT AVAILABILITY OF LOW-TIME BOEING 707-320C, THEN CONFIRMED BY PHONE CALL TO AVIATION OFFICIALS HANDLING AIRCRAFT PURCHASE THAT A) NO SUCH OFFER WAS KNOWN TO GOR FROM OTHER SOURCES AND THAT B) GOR HAD DECIDED TO ACQUIRE NEW PRESIDENTIAL 707-320C.

2. SPATARU REPEATED TO EMBOFF THE FACT THAT VIP COMMUNICATIONS EQUIPMENT, AND DECISION ON AIRCRAFT PER SE, WRE HANDLED BY SEPARATE TEAMS OF GOR SPECIALISTS. HE RECONFIRMED FULL APPROVAL HAD BEEN GIVEN AT HIGHEST LEVEL TO ACQUIRE EQUIPMENT PACKAGE, BUT SAID AIRCRAFT DECISION WAS BEING HELD BACK BY UNCERTAINTIES OVER APPLICABILITY OF FUTURE NOISE POLLUTION STANDARDS AND POSSIBLE REQUIREMENT TO RETROFIT 707'S WITH NOISE ABATEMENT DEVICES. HE SAID THESE CONSIDERATIONS MADE DELEGATION VISIT PREMATURE UNLESS COLLINS' REPORTED WILLINGNESS TO DISCUSS FULL TECHNICAL AND PRICE

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 BUCCHAR 05059 310701Z

QUOTATIONS WAS BACKED BY INFORMATION CONVINCING ENOUGH TO

PERSUADE AVIAATION SPECIALISTS THAT ON-THE-SPOT PURCHASE
DECISION COULD BE JUSTIFIED.

3. SPATARU IN FACT IS FAVORABLY DISPOSED TO COLLINS VISIT
SEP 5 BECAUSE HIS TEAM PREPARED FOR FINAL TECHNICAL DISCUSSION
ON EQUIPMENT, BUT HE VOICES SERIOUS DOUBT THAT TALKS WOULD
ADVANCE THE COMMERCIAL NEGOTIATIONS UNTIL PROBLEM OF AIRCRAFT
IS RESOLVED.

4. COMMENT: WE URGENTLY WISH TO CALL EMBASSY'S SEPARATE
DISCUSSIONS ON 707 NOISE ABATEMENT PROBLEM TO GANLEY'S
ATTENTION (REFTELS B, C, AND D) AND ASK FOR DEPARTMENT'S
CLOSEST ATTENTION TO ADVISABILITY OF COLLINS VISIT AT THIS
TIME. WE FEEL RATHER CERTAIN GOR WOULD WELCOME COLLINS
DELEGATION SEP 5 IF THEY ARE IN POSITION TO SHED SIGNIFICANT
LIGHT ON AIRCRAFT PROBLEM.
VIETS

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